

Legislative Profile

By Coleen Vansant, Information Manager, Alabama Forestry Commission

At the end of his current term, Senator Jack Biddle, III, of Birmingham will have completed 32 years of service in the Alabama Legislature. He served five terms in the House of Representatives, and is currently in his third term as State Senator. He is the only legislative member to be elected and serve as a democrat, independent, and republican.

This veteran statesman represents the 17th District that includes Blount, Jefferson, and St. Clair Counties. An Alabama native, he was raised in the Birmingham area and received his Bachelor of Science degree from Samford University. Senator Biddle is a real estate broker and developer and is Assistant to the CEO of Drummond Company. He also manages The Oaks Plantation, a quail farm in Albany, Georgia.

The Senator says that he has always been concerned with things that affect our farms and forests. He initiated legislation to donate funds for Auburn University to do a study on fire ant eradication, and he is also concerned with the southern pine beetle. He is currently serving as vice chairperson of the Senate Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee, as well as serving on the committees for Education, Energy and Natural Resources, Finance and Taxation Education, Tourism and Marketing, Rules, and Local Legislation #2.

Senator Biddle and his wife, Nena, live in Gardendale. They have two chil-



**Senator
Jack Biddle, III**

**Republican –
17th District
(Blount, Jefferson,
and St. Clair Counties)**

dren and two grandchildren, and are members of the Gardendale Methodist Church. He and his wife own 500 acres in Wilcox County, and they have about 90 acres on the lake in Chilton County. He notes that he stays “in the woods most of the time.” Although he is not a

TREASURE Forest owner, he says that he would like to be, and looks forward to receiving his *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine.

Growing up, the Senator said he was a frequent visitor at his grandparents' farm in Mentone in north Alabama, one of the coldest places in the state. He laughs when he recalled that it was so cold there at times when he was a boy that he and his sister would fight to see who would get to sleep with the dog on the bed with them.

Senator Biddle is a veteran, having served as a Special Agent with Counter Intelligence Corps, Department of the Army, during the time of the Korean Conflict. He is a member of the Alabama Historical Society and the Alabama Archaeological Association. He loves Indian relics and historic places, and is interested in their restoration. Over the years, he has introduced legislation concerning these issues.

The Senator is also a member of the Alabama Wildlife Federation, the UAB Department of Psychiatry Advisory Board, and the Jefferson County Coroner's Medical Examiners Board. He is a former member of the Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Board and formerly held a seat on the Board of Trustees for the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Senator Biddle, a nine-time state champion in trap shooting, also enjoys hunting, fishing, and playing golf. ♣

Memorial

Mr. James Bernard Dollar, age 84 of Northport, died February 16, 2005. Mr. Dollar's Tuscaloosa County TREASURE Forest was honored as the state winner of the 1992 *Helene Mosley Memorial Award*, and was featured in the Fall 1993 issue of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine.

J.B. was a veteran of WWII where he served in Europe as a B-17 bomber pilot with the U.S. Air Force. Following the war, he attended the University of Alabama where he graduated with a degree in accounting and law. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Betty R. Dollar, children, and grandchildren. ♣

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